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COMMITTEE ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL
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QUADRENNIAL REPORTS ON THE ACTIVITIES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, CATEGORIES I AND II

Follow-up to the decisions taken by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations at its session in 1992

Reports submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968

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INTRODUCTION

1. At its session in 1991, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations noted that the information provided by the following organizations on their activities for the period 1986-1989 was not satisfactory:

European League for Economic Cooperation
European Organization for Quality
Inter-American Planning Society (SIAP)
International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI)
Inter-University European Institute on Social Welfare
Latin American Iron and Steel Institute
Union of International Associations
United Towns Organization

2. The Committee decided to request the above-mentioned organizations to submit, within three months, additional information on their activities related to the work of the United Nations (E/1991/20, para. 24).

3. The International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) and the Inter-University European Institute on Social Welfare did not provide additional information.

4. The replies received from the other organizations are reproduced below.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION (ELEC)

(Category II)

ELEC activities correspond directly to a number of the priorities set by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. This is true first of all of the environment, a subject on which the League has held a number of meetings, including:

(a) Environment and transport;

(b) Groundwater pollution caused by agriculture or industrial processes;

(c) Problems linked to the absence of environmental spending in the countries of Eastern Europe.

A general text on the subject "Environment and society" serves as a guide for all our activities.

In view of its specific character, ELEC approaches these questions from the standpoint of the economic impact of environmental decisions.

It takes careful note of the various documents on environmental problems transmitted by the United Nations and would be concerned if that service were withdrawn. In addition, it is perfectly willing to exchange experiences at any meetings where its presence is requested.

ELEC is conducting research in another area of keen interest to the Economic Commission for Europe, namely, social issues in Europe, with particular reference to immigration problems.

EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION FOR QUALITY

(Category II)

To the best of our knowledge we cannot identify adequate activities which could be declared as contributions to projects of the United Nations or UNIDO or other United Nations bodies. This will remain so also in the years to come because, besides taking care of our basic task of promoting education and training for quality specialists in Western Europe, we now consider it our duty also to assist members in Eastern Europe in managing the new situation there.

In consequence we are not in a position to prepare a report as requested to maintain consultative status, category II.

INTER-AMERICAN PLANNING SOCIETY (SIAP)

(Category II)

Unfortunately, we are not able to supply additional information on basic activities that we did not carry out. However, the Committee's report failed to mention the requests for advisory and consultancy services which we receive constantly from members and non-members of SIAP and from governmental and non-governmental organizations. Nor was any mention made of the activities carried out in each country by the national planning societies affiliated to SIAP, which are partly funded by member contributions in addition to institutional support from SIAP.

Moreover, the fact that we have been unable to take part directly in the activities carried out by United Nations bodies should not be taken to mean that we are not working actively to achieve the main purposes and principles of the United Nations, such as the socio-economic development of the countries of Latin America, social justice in the development process, the technical training of planning organizations, and so on. How does the Committee interpret the publication of 16 editions of our Revista Interamericana de Planificación and Boletín Correo Informativo, various books on planning and the environment, the countless seminars, courses and other meetings we have directly promoted and organized on questions relating to the improvement of living standards, as well as the holding of the sixteenth Inter-American Planning Congress on Development Policies and Strategies and other activities relating to the environment, unemployment, housing, social infrastructure and so on? Does the Committee really believe that none of this has anything to do with the work of the United Nations? Which of these activities is not connected with the purposes and principles of the United Nations? What does the Committee think SIAP should do in order to meet the objectives for which it was founded? It is in the light of those specific objectives that the work of an organization should be judged. Surely, by promoting participatory and democratic planning for more socially and geographically equitable development, we are working for world peace?

Has the Committee taken into account the difficult financial conditions under which the Society has had to operate since 1982 as a result of the crises in its host countries and in Latin America in general? What economic support has the United Nations given to its activities in recent years? Has the Organization not been obliged to reduce its own technical activities appreciably?

LATIN AMERICAN IRON AND STEEL INSTITUTE (ILAFA)

(Category II)

The aim of ILAFA is to study the economic, statistical, marketing, technical and scientific aspects of the steel industry and of the raw materials used in steel production.

	1986	1990
Number of active members	90	92
Number of affiliated members	96	84
Sources of funding (Total)	US$ 1 072 900	US$ 1 027 100
Members	718 900	589 600
Notices and publications	137 600	146 500
Exhibitions	74 900	49 600
Attendance at congresses, seminars, etc.	141 500	241 400

ILAFA activities have included the following:

(a) Secretariat at the Fourth Consultation of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) on the Iron and Steel Industry (Vienna, June 1986);

(b) Participation in the Consultatory Workshop on Strategies for the Development of the Mining Resources of Latin America and the Caribbean, held by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Santiago, 14-16 December 1987;

(c) Participation in the meeting of Latin American experts (ECLAC, Santiago, 21-22 August 1989).

ILAFA has worked with the following United Nations bodies:

(a) UNIDO: Working with Mr. Gérard R. Latortue, Director of the System of Consultations Division at UNIDO, on the system of consultations on iron and steel manufacturing (Santiago, November 1990, and Cancún, November 1990);

(b) ECLAC: Lecture given by Mr. Carlos Massad, Deputy Director of ECLAC, to the Latin American Congress on the Iron and Steel Industry (ILAFA-32) at Cancún, November 1990;

(c) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD): Meetings with Mrs. Edna dos Santos-Duisenberg, economist in the Commodities Division at UNCTAD, who is interested in preparing a joint ILAFA-UNCTAD regional study on iron ore in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Other activities have included:

(a) A competition on the use of steel in public housing (Caracas, 2-6 November 1989) to mark the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless declared by the United Nations;

(b) The Eliezer Batista da Silva prize, awarded by the company Vale Rio Doce (CVRD), 28 October 1988 (coordinated by ILAFA and ECLAC);

(c) Fresh recognition of ILAFA as an organization in consultative status, granted by UNIDO on 23 October 1986 by decision IDB.2/Dec.29, pursuant to article 19.1 (b) of the Constitution of UNIDO;

(d) Activities involving various ECLAC officials (F. Faynzilber, E. Gana, S. Moya);

(e) With UNIDO:

(i) Preparation of the regional meeting on computerized systems of maintenance management in the iron and steel industry, organized under the joint auspices of UNIDO and SIDERMEX (Monclova, Mexico, 18-21 November 1991);

(ii) Preparation of a technical meeting on the latest developments in the iron and steel industry and their implications for Latin America (Mr. Gérard Latortue, Director, System of Consultations Division, UNIDO, 1991 or 1992);

(iii) Successful negotiations with the Secretariat by Mr. Iván Contreras, UNIDO Director for Mexico and Cuba, to secure ILAFA membership for the José Martí iron and steel works in Cuba;

(f) With ECLAC:

(i) Invitation to Mr. Gert Rosenthal, Executive Director of ECLAC, to speak on the subject of equitable development at ILAFA-32 (Rio de Janeiro, October 1991);

(ii) Meetings with various ECLAC officials (F. Faynzilber, E. Gana, S. Moya) to exchange information on the iron and steel industry in Latin America;

(g) With UNESCO: Under a licensing agreement concluded between the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and ILAFA on 28 November 1986, UNESCO gave Micro CDS/ISIS software to the information centre free of charge. The system is intended for the storage and recovery of bibliographic information using microcomputers.

UNION OF INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS (UAI)

(Category II)

The long-standing cooperation between the Union of International Associations (UAI) and the United Nations has focused mainly on questions of general principle, scientific issues and documentation, in line with the provisions of the Economic and Social Council resolutions authorizing this cooperation. Consequently, regular attendance at the meetings of various United Nations bodies does not constitute an essential part of that cooperation and does not lend itself to statistical summary.

During the period covered by the report, UAI did not, except in specific cases, play a specific role at meetings as an adviser on principles and methods of consultation. As a result, the UIA quadrennial report is essentially an overview of its global cooperation with the United Nations, rather than a list of specific events.

This cooperation has been strengthened by the fact that UAI has permanent representatives to the United Nations in both New York and Geneva.

UNITED TOWNS ORGANIZATION (UTO)

(Category I)

The UTO representative took part in the ceremonies marking the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations.

In 1987, UTO received the "Messenger of Peace" prize, which was awarded to it on 15 September at the Palais des Nations, Geneva.

It has regularly taken part in meetings devoted to human rights questions.

At Vienna, its main partner has been the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs.

It has maintained its ties with the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch with a view to holding a seminar on the prevention of juvenile delinquency.

In addition, documents and information have been exchanged with the Disabled Persons Unit and the Developmental Social Welfare Unit, sectors in which UTO has been working actively for many years.

Information exchanges have been developed with the planning and international projects service.

Relations between UTO and the United Nations have grown much closer in recent years and it is difficult to single out specific dates. Contacts with

the different United Nations services enabled UTO to play a very active role in preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

UTO was also instrumental in mobilizing towns to participate in UNCED at the local level; to that end, it prepared in collaboration with other associations, a joint declaration by towns and local authorities.